

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-32. In light of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Holehan reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,337,918) in view of the Senior reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,400,836). Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 27-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Holehan reference in view of the Brownlee reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,282,303). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

The present application was filed on August 24, 2001. This filing date precedes the January 8, 2002 issue date of the Holehan patent and is subsequent to the November 4, 1996 filing date of the Holehan reference. Thus, the Holehan reference is only applicable as prior art against the instant application under section 102(e).

Regarding the Holehan reference, Applicant respectfully asserts that this reference should be removed from consideration in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) and M.P.E.P. § 706.02(l), because the Holehan reference is only applicable as prior art under section 102(e) and because the Holehan reference and the present application were, at the time the invention was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to, Compaq Information Technologies Group, L.P., which is the successor-in-interest to Compaq Computer Corporation.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner remove the Holehan reference from consideration. After the Holehan reference is removed according to 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), the Examiner's rejections based on the Holehan reference are moot.

Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-32 are patentable and in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

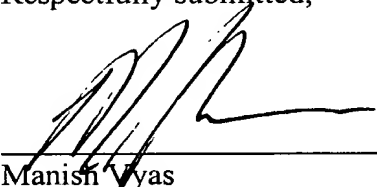
In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

General Authorization for Fee Payments and Extensions of Time

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, Applicant hereby provides a general authorization to treat this and any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefor. Furthermore, Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge the appropriate fee for any extension of time, and any additional fees which may be required, to the Deposit Account listed on the Transmittal accompanied herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

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